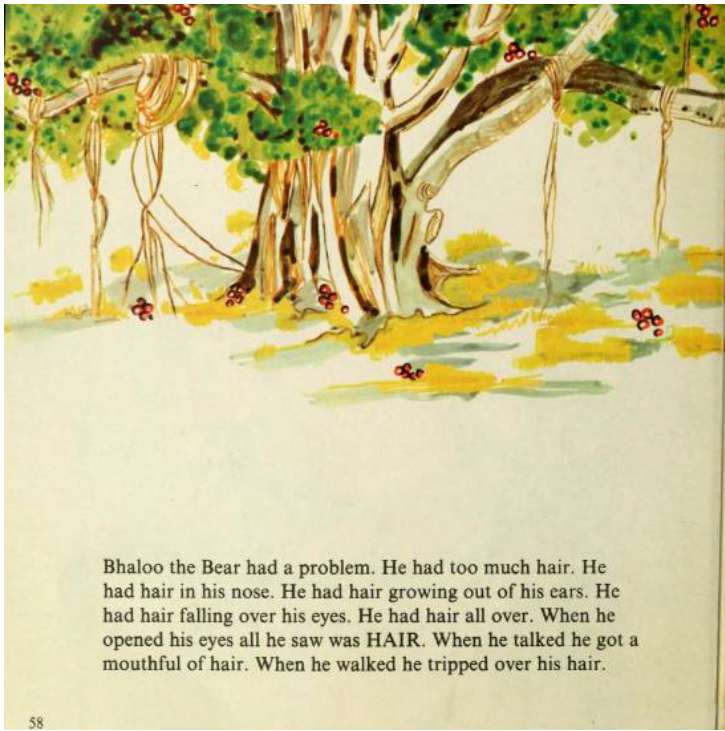
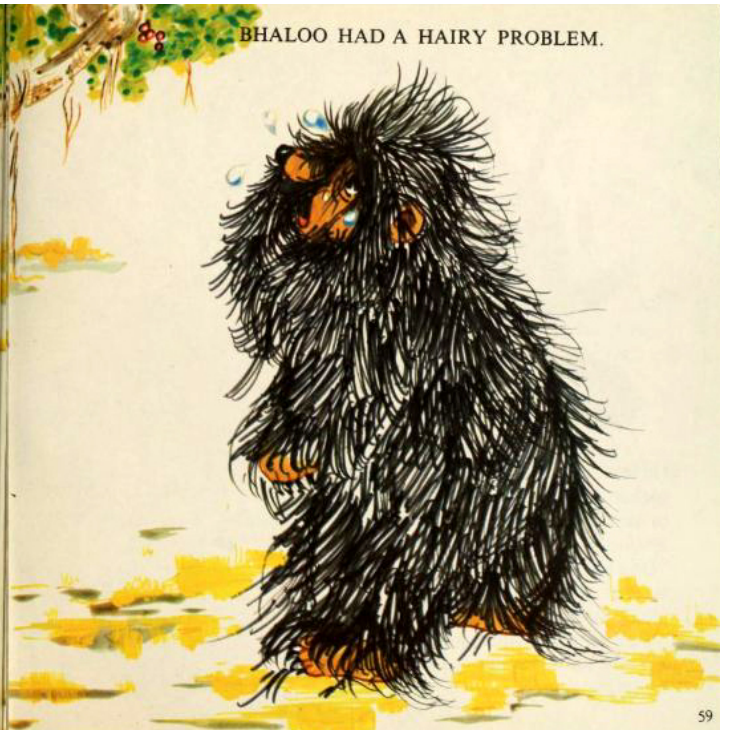


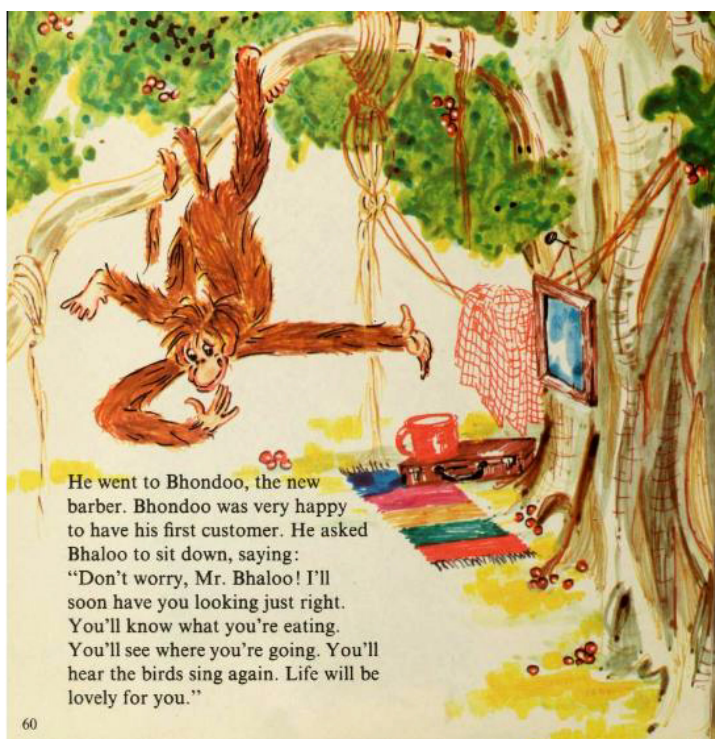
Bhondoo The Barber



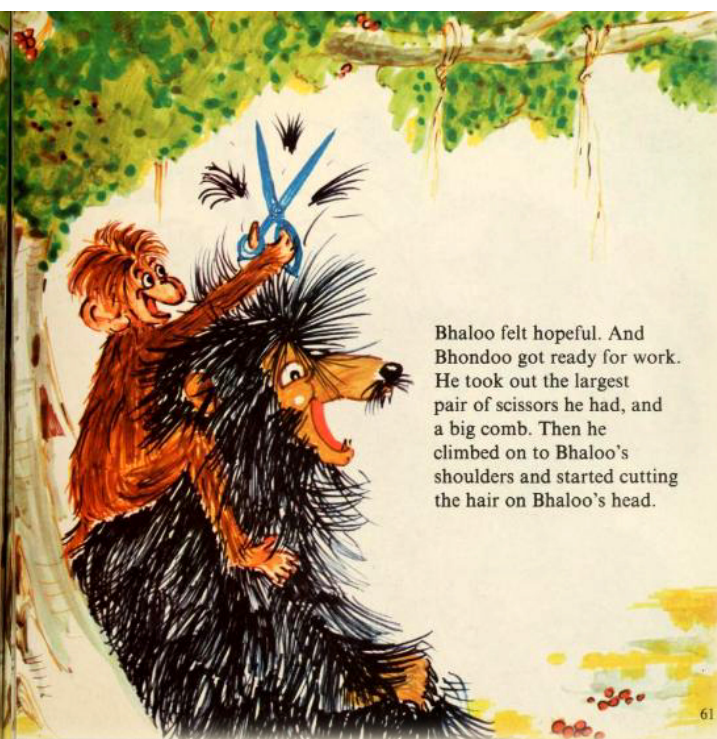
Bhaloo the Bear had a problem. He had too much hair. He had hair in his nose. He had hair growing out of his ears. He had hair falling over his eyes. He had hair all over. When he opened his eyes all he saw was HAIR. When he talked he got a mouthful of hair. When he walked he tripped over his hair.



BHALOO HAD A HAIRY PROBLEM.



He went to Bhondoo, the new barber. Bhondoo was very happy to have his first customer. He asked Bhaloo to sit down, saying: "Don't worry, Mr. Bhaloo! I'll soon have you looking just right. You'll know what you're eating. You'll see where you're going. You'll hear the birds sing again. Life will be lovely for you."



Bhaloo felt hopeful. And Bhondoo got ready for work. He took out the largest pair of scissors he had, and a big comb. Then he climbed on to Bhaloo's shoulders and started cutting the hair on Bhaloo's head.



Suddenly a bird flew out of Bhaloo's hair. Bhondoo got a fright. Then he saw a nest in Bhaloo's hair. The nest had lots of little birds in it. Gently Bhondoo took the nest out. Bhondoo started cutting Bhaloo's hair again. He cut and he cut.

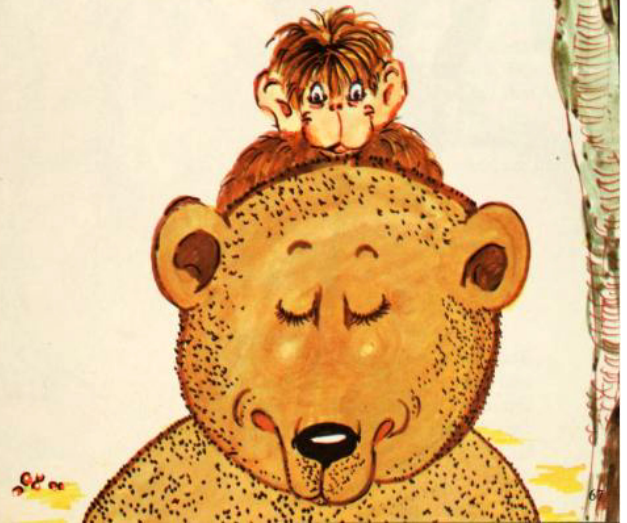
A squirrel darted out, chattering and grumbling. "Why are you cutting my house down?" But Bhaloo had not even known he was there. Bhondoo cut and he cut. First some butterflies flew out of Bhaloo's hair. Then out ran some rats, followed by two little frogs. Bhaloo seemed to be a walking zoo.

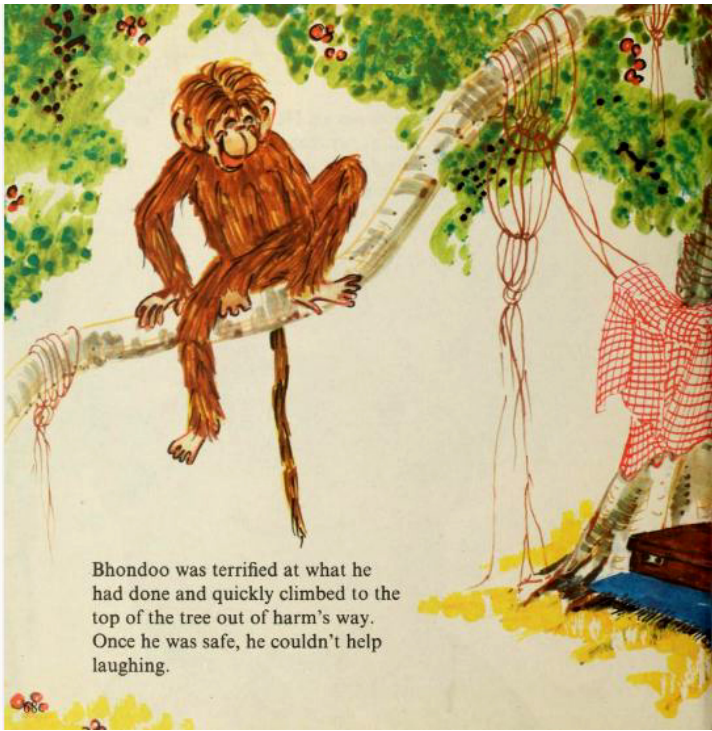




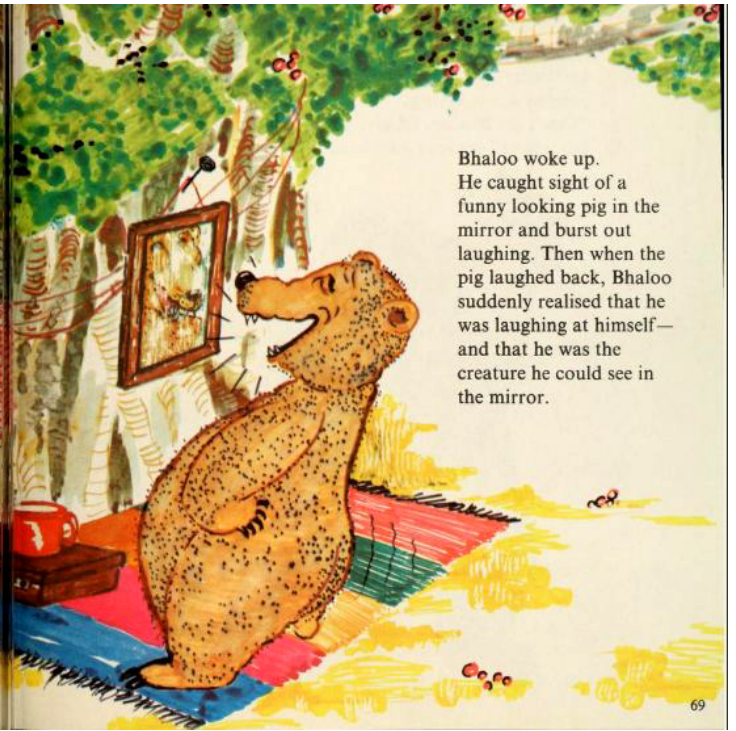
Bhaloo began to doze off. It seemed to Bhondoo that this job of cutting Bhaloo's hair was going to go on for ever. There was so much of it to cut. Bhondoo began to feel sleepy too. Gradually his eyelids drooped and his eyes closed as he kept on cut—cut—cutting Bhaloo's hair. Now up, now down, now backwards, now forwards, now left, now right, now sideways. . . .

Suddenly Bhondoo awoke. He opened his eyes and saw a most peculiar sight. Bhaloo did not have a single hair left. He looked more like a huge pig than a bear.





Bhondoo was terrified at what he had done and quickly climbed to the top of the tree out of harm's way. Once he was safe, he couldn't help laughing.



Bhaloo woke up. He caught sight of a funny looking pig in the mirror and burst out laughing. Then when the pig laughed back, Bhaloo suddenly realised that he was laughing at himself—and that he was the creature he could see in the mirror.

He burst into tears: "I don't mind anything else, but I do mind a bald head. Everyone will call me 'Baldy'." Bhondoo felt sorry for Bhaloo. He jumped down, saying: "Don't cry Bhaloo. I'll give you a turban. No one will see your bald head then."



Bhondoo tied a turban around Bhaloo's head. "There Bhaloo, you look like a Raja. Nobody will laugh at you now."

Bhaloo was delighted. He could see, he could hear, he could talk, he could walk. There was no hair to worry him any more. He was a very happy bear indeed.



